

BRC Disposal Subcommittee Meeting, November 4, 2010

Lessons learned from site evaluation processes for
WIPP and Yucca Mountain sites

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What are the key lessons learned from WIPP and Yucca Mountain?

- What were the drivers behind the scope of scientific work and the associated cost and time?
- How can a future site evaluation process be designed within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost?

What were the drivers behind the scope of scientific work and the associated cost and time?

- Narrowed to one site prematurely
 - Adaptive staged management was not followed
 - Failed to achieve societal acceptance
- Regulatory standards were not in place prior to siting decisions
- Regulatory standards are too prescriptive
- Proponent management and control was constantly changing

How can a future site evaluation process be designed within reasonable time and reasonable cost?

- Clearly establish regulatory standards prior to siting decisions
- Standards need to be succinct, understandable and implementable
- Conduct an integrated risk-informed management and safety case analysis to drive the evaluation
- Characterize a minimum of two sites “at depth”
- Site selected should be developed as a demonstration facility
- Provide sustained management, budget and control